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Chairman Daniel R. Elliot, III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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May 13, 2011

Dear Chairman Elliott,

Ex Parte 705

Please oppose efforts to undo the reasonable economic regulations that currently govern freight railroads. The current regulatory structure has worked well and helps not only the railroads, but also the companies that supply them. The Okonite Company is one such company. Founded in 1878, we are a leading producer of wire and cable in the United States. We have manufacturing locations employing more than 1400 people across the country (Ashton, RI, Paterson, NJ, Orangeburg, SC, Richmond, KY and Santa Maria, CA) and customer service centers (Portland, OR, St. Rose, LA, Imperial, PA, LaMirada, CA, Houston, TX, and Edwardsville, KS).

As Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, you have the unique ability to influence the success of this country's railroads and companies like mine that supply them. I ask that you preserve balanced economic regulations because balanced regulation helps not only railroads prosper, but also all those companies that provide everything from wire to steel, railcars to electronic components to the railroad industry.

Since its founding Okonite has emphasized research and development in the compounding and fabrication of insulating and jacketing materials, thereby providing a list of industry "firsts" in these technologies. The Research and Engineering Laboratories, located in Paterson, New Jersey, provide us with the finest cable evaluation equipment in the industry. Many of Okonite's proprietary products have thus become generic in describing wire and cable products for a multitude of specialized services.

We stand the best chance to continue growing and innovating when our customers are able to do the same. Railroads' growth and innovation happens when economic regulations are reasonable. It is true for all industries.

Thank you for considering The Okonite Company as you make these important transportation policy decisions.

Sincerely,

Alfred C. Coppola
President
and
Chief Operating Officer